

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Outcome/Program: General**

**Topic: Freedom of Information**

**Senator: Ryan**

**Question reference number: F67**

**Type of question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Tuesday, 2 April 2013**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Question:**

- a) Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b) What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
- c) How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

**Answer:**

- a) No.
- b) The information for this financial year has not been collated. An estimate of the total cost for 2012-13 will be made available by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) on its website through its annual Freedom of Information agency statistics at [http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/reports.html#annual\\_reports](http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/reports.html#annual_reports).
- c) As advised to the OAIC in the Department's quarterly statistical reporting, for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012:
  - a. the Department received 56 requests;
  - b. access was refused to 10 requests and 23 requests were granted (12 in full and 11 in part);
  - c. the Department did not meet the processing times set out in the FOI Act for 2 requests due to internal delays. Neither of those requests remains outstanding.The information for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 January 2013 has not yet been collated and will be prepared in April 2013 for the January to March 2013 quarterly statistical reporting to the OAIC.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Australian Electoral Commission

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

- a) No. The AEC has not received updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests. The AEC process FOI requests in accordance with Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner and other resources that are published on the OAIC website. These were last updated on 29 January 2013.
- b) An estimate of the total cost for 2012-13 will be made available by the OAIC on its website through its annual statistical reporting.
- c) For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the AEC has received six FOI requests. One request was treated as withdrawn as a consequence of the applicant's failure to respond to a request for consultation about the application. One FOI request was granted in full and three were granted with deletions. The AEC met all of the processing times outlined in the FOI Act. Two FOI requests were pending at the end of January 2013 but were still within the period allowed for processing.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** ComSuper  
**Outcome/Program:**  
**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

- a) No
- b) The information for this financial year has not been collated. An estimate of the total cost for 2012-13 will be made available by the OAIC on its website through its annual statistical reporting.
- c) Some 114 FOI requests were received for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013. Two requests were denied, seven requests were partially granted, 100 requests were granted in full, three requests were withdrawn or treated as withdrawn by the applicants and two requests were under consideration as at 31 January 2013. Due to the complexity of the relevant matters, three cases (since completed) took more than the prescribed time to finalise.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

- a) No
- b) Nil
- c) Four requests: one withdrawn; one not subject to the FOI Act; 2 currently under consideration.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Future Fund Management Agency

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

- a) Yes. The Agency receives guidance from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and advice from external legal providers as required.
- b) The information for this financial year has not been collated. An estimate of the total cost for 2012-13 will be made available by the OAIC on its website through its annual statistical reporting.
- c) For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the agency has received two FOI requests. One has been granted and one identified no relevant documents. All processing times have been met.